

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/EP2005/000942

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 B65G47/51

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 B65G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 1 275 603 A (SIG PACK SYSTEMS AG) 15 January 2003 (2003-01-15) cited in the application	1,4,6,28
A	Spalte 2, Abschnitt 13 - Spalte 3, Abschnitt 17; Abbildungen; Zusammenfassung	2,3,5, 7-27, 29-40
Y	EP 1 295 820 A (SIG SIMONAZZI S.P.A.) 26 March 2003 (2003-03-26)	1,4,6
A	Spalte 2, Abschnitt 7; Spalte 2, Abschnitt 10 - Spalte 3, Abschnitt 14; Spalte 4, Abschnitt 17 - Spalte 5, Abschnitt 21; Abbildungen	2,3,5, 7-27
	----- -/- -----	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 August 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

30.09.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Clivio, E

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2005/000942

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 734 978 A (JERVIS B. WEBB INTERNATIONAL COMPANY) 2 October 1996 (1996-10-02)	41
Y	Spalte 3, Zeilen 8-41; Zusammenfassung; Abbildungen 1,3	28
A		29-40, 42-48
A	----- US 4 549 647 A (COSSE ET AL) 29 October 1985 (1985-10-29) Spalte 3, Zeile 23 - Spalte 4, Zeile 45; Abbildungen	1-27
A	----- US 2003/155212 A1 (ABERT BERNARD ET AL) 21 August 2003 (2003-08-21) Seite 1, Abschnitt 1; Seite 2, Abschnitte 26-39; Abbildungen	1-27
A	----- FR 2 766 803 A (ARRIAZA DIAZ JOSE) 5 February 1999 (1999-02-05) Seite 1, Zeilen 1,2; Seite 1, Zeile 24 - Seite 2, Zeile 20; Abbildungen	1-27
A	----- US 2002/195317 A1 (WIPF ALFRED) 26 December 2002 (2002-12-26) the whole document	1-27
A	----- US 5 429 227 A (KROESSMANN ET AL) 4 July 1995 (1995-07-04) the whole document	28-48

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

**PCT/EP2005/000942**

## Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

**SEE SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET**

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

The International Searching Authority has found that the international application contains multiple (groups of) inventions, as follows:

1. Claims 1-27

Device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor, comprising a continuous, flexible conveying means wherein the continuous conveying means comprise grippers arranged over its entire length.

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2. Claims 28-48

Device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor, comprising a link chain which is fitted with rotatable guide rollers.

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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2005/000942

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 1275603	A	15-01-2003	AT 261895 T DE 50200295 D1 EP 1275603 A1 ES 2217244 T3 US 2002195317 A1	15-04-2004 22-04-2004 15-01-2003 01-11-2004 26-12-2002
EP 1295820	A	26-03-2003	EP 1295820 A1	26-03-2003
EP 0734978	A	02-10-1996	US 5620084 A AU 692268 B2 AU 2721795 A BR 9503986 A CA 2158301 A1 CN 1132170 A ,C CZ 9600891 A3 DE 69515983 D1 DE 69515983 T2 EP 0734978 A2 ES 2145198 T3 FI 955897 A HK 1013978 A1 HU 73447 A2 JP 8301423 A KR 264903 B1 NO 961296 A NZ 286098 A PL 310275 A1 RU 2160694 C2 SG 41957 A1 ZA 9506206 A	15-04-1997 04-06-1998 10-10-1996 14-10-1997 01-10-1996 02-10-1996 16-10-1996 04-05-2000 27-07-2000 02-10-1996 01-07-2000 01-10-1996 08-12-2000 28-08-1996 19-11-1996 01-11-2000 01-10-1996 25-03-1998 14-10-1996 20-12-2000 15-08-1997 27-01-1997
US 4549647	A	29-10-1985	FR 2524436 A1 CA 1212131 A1 DE 3376643 D1 DE 91856 T1 EP 0091856 A1 ES 8604826 A1 GB 2118125 A ,B	07-10-1983 30-09-1986 23-06-1988 07-06-1984 19-10-1983 01-08-1986 26-10-1983
US 2003155212	A1	21-08-2003	FR 2807413 A1 AU 4848301 A EP 1274635 A1 WO 0176989 A1	12-10-2001 23-10-2001 15-01-2003 18-10-2001
FR 2766803	A	05-02-1999	FR 2766803 A1	05-02-1999
US 2002195317	A1	26-12-2002	AT 261895 T DE 50200295 D1 EP 1275603 A1 ES 2217244 T3	15-04-2004 22-04-2004 15-01-2003 01-11-2004
US 5429227	A	04-07-1995	DE 4324120 A1 DE 59404196 D1 EP 0635441 A1 ES 2108344 T3	26-01-1995 06-11-1997 25-01-1995 16-12-1997

# INTERNATIONALER RECHERCHENBERICHT

Internationales Aktenzeichen

PCT/EP2005/000942

<b>A. KLASSIFIZIERUNG DES ANMELDUNGSGEGENSTANDES</b> IPK 7 B65G47/51		
Nach der Internationalen Patentklassifikation (IPK) oder nach der nationalen Klassifikation und der IPK		
<b>B. RECHERCHIERTE GEBIETE</b> Recherchierte Mindestprüfstoff (Klassifikationssystem und Klassifikationssymbole) IPK 7 B65G		
Recherchierte aber nicht zum Mindestprüfstoff gehörende Veröffentlichungen, soweit diese unter die recherchierten Gebiete fallen		
Während der internationalen Recherche konsultierte elektronische Datenbank (Name der Datenbank und evtl. verwendete Suchbegriffe) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ		
<b>C. ALS WESENTLICH ANGESEHENE UNTERLAGEN</b>		
Kategorie*	Bezeichnung der Veröffentlichung, soweit erforderlich unter Angabe der in Betracht kommenden Teile	Betr. Anspruch Nr.
Y	EP 1 275 603 A (SIG PACK SYSTEMS AG) 15. Januar 2003 (2003-01-15) in der Anmeldung erwähnt	1,4,6,28
A	Spalte 2, Abschnitt 13 – Spalte 3, Abschnitt 17; Abbildungen; Zusammenfassung	2,3,5, 7-27, 29-40
Y	EP 1 295 820 A (SIG SIMONAZZI S.P.A.) 26. März 2003 (2003-03-26)	1,4,6
A	Spalte 2, Abschnitt 7; Spalte 2, Abschnitt 10 – Spalte 3, Abschnitt 14; Spalte 4, Abschnitt 17 – Spalte 5, Abschnitt 21; Abbildungen	2,3,5, 7-27
----- -/-		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weitere Veröffentlichungen sind der Fortsetzung von Feld C zu entnehmen		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Siehe Anhang Patentfamilie		
* Besondere Kategorien von angegebenen Veröffentlichungen : "A" Veröffentlichung, die den allgemeinen Stand der Technik definiert, aber nicht als besonders bedeutsam anzusehen ist "E" älteres Dokument, das jedoch erst am oder nach dem internationalen Anmeldedatum veröffentlicht worden ist "L" Veröffentlichung, die geeignet ist, einen Prioritätsanspruch zweifelhaft erscheinen zu lassen, oder durch die das Veröffentlichungsdatum einer anderen im Recherchenbericht genannten Veröffentlichung belegt werden soll oder die aus einem anderen besonderen Grund angegeben ist (wie ausgeführt) "O" Veröffentlichung, die sich auf eine mündliche Offenbarung, eine Benutzung, eine Ausstellung oder andere Maßnahmen bezieht "P" Veröffentlichung, die vor dem internationalen Anmeldedatum, aber nach dem beanspruchten Prioritätsdatum veröffentlicht worden ist "T" Spätere Veröffentlichung, die nach dem internationalen Anmeldedatum oder dem Prioritätsdatum veröffentlicht worden ist und mit der Anmeldung nicht kollidiert, sondern nur zum Verständnis des der Erfindung zugrundeliegenden Prinzips oder der ihr zugrundeliegenden Theorie angegeben ist "X" Veröffentlichung von besonderer Bedeutung; die beanspruchte Erfindung kann allein aufgrund dieser Veröffentlichung nicht als neu oder auf erfinderischer Tätigkeit beruhend betrachtet werden "Y" Veröffentlichung von besonderer Bedeutung; die beanspruchte Erfindung kann nicht als auf erfinderischer Tätigkeit beruhend betrachtet werden, wenn die Veröffentlichung mit einer oder mehreren anderen Veröffentlichungen dieser Kategorie in Verbindung gebracht wird und diese Verbindung für einen Fachmann naheliegend ist "Z" Veröffentlichung, die Mitglied derselben Patentfamilie ist		
Datum des Abschlusses der internationalen Recherche 24. August 2005		Absenddatum des internationalen Recherchenberichts 30. 09. 2005
Name und Postanschrift der Internationalen Recherchenbehörde Europäisches Patentamt, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016		Bevollmächtigter Beauftragter Clivio, E

C.(Fortsetzung) ALS WESENTLICH ANGESEHENE UNTERLAGEN		
Kategorie*	Bezeichnung der Veröffentlichung, soweit erforderlich unter Angabe der in Betracht kommenden Teile	Beitr. Anspruch Nr.
X	EP 0 734 978 A (JERVIS B. WEBB INTERNATIONAL COMPANY) 2. Oktober 1996 (1996-10-02)	41
Y	Spalte 3, Zeilen 8-41; Zusammenfassung; Abbildungen 1,3	28
A		29-40, 42-48
A	US 4 549 647 A (COSSE ET AL) 29. Oktober 1985 (1985-10-29) Spalte 3, Zeile 23 - Spalte 4, Zeile 45; Abbildungen	1-27
A	US 2003/155212 A1 (ABERT BERNARD ET AL) 21. August 2003 (2003-08-21) Seite 1, Abschnitt 1; Seite 2, Abschnitte 26-39; Abbildungen	1-27
A	FR 2 766 803 A (ARRIAZA DIAZ JOSE) 5. Februar 1999 (1999-02-05) Seite 1, Zeilen 1,2; Seite 1, Zeile 24 - Seite 2, Zeile 20; Abbildungen	1-27
A	US 2002/195317 A1 (WIPF ALFRED) 26. Dezember 2002 (2002-12-26) das ganze Dokument	1-27
A	US 5 429 227 A (KROESSMANN ET AL) 4. Juli 1995 (1995-07-04) das ganze Dokument	28-48

# INTERNATIONALER RECHERCHENBERICHT

Internationales Aktenzeichen  
PCT/EP2005/000942

## Feld II Bemerkungen zu den Ansprüchen, die sich als nicht recherchierbar erwiesen haben (Fortsetzung von Punkt 2 auf Blatt 1)

Gemäß Artikel 17(2)a) wurde aus folgenden Gründen für bestimmte Ansprüche kein Recherchenbericht erstellt:

1. ☐ Ansprüche Nr. \_\_\_\_\_  
weil sie sich auf Gegenstände beziehen, zu deren Recherche die Behörde nicht verpflichtet ist, nämlich \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. ☐ Ansprüche Nr. \_\_\_\_\_  
weil sie sich auf Teile der internationalen Anmeldung beziehen, die den vorgeschriebenen Anforderungen so wenig entsprechen, daß eine sinnvolle internationale Recherche nicht durchgeführt werden kann, nämlich \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. ☐ Ansprüche Nr. \_\_\_\_\_  
weil es sich dabei um abhängige Ansprüche handelt, die nicht entsprechend Satz 2 und 3 der Regel 6.4 a) abgefaßt sind.

## Feld III Bemerkungen bei mangelnder Einheitlichkeit der Erfindung (Fortsetzung von Punkt 3 auf Blatt 1)

Die internationale Recherchenbehörde hat festgestellt, daß diese internationale Anmeldung mehrere Erfindungen enthält:

siehe Zusatzblatt

1. ☒ Da der Anmelder alle erforderlichen zusätzlichen Recherchegebühren rechtzeitig entrichtet hat, erstreckt sich dieser internationale Recherchenbericht auf alle recherchierbaren Ansprüche.
  
2. ☐ Da für alle recherchierbaren Ansprüche die Recherche ohne einen Arbeitsaufwand durchgeführt werden konnte, der eine zusätzliche Recherchegebühr gerechtfertigt hätte, hat die Behörde nicht zur Zahlung einer solchen Gebühr aufgefordert.
  
3. ☐ Da der Anmelder nur einige der erforderlichen zusätzlichen Recherchegebühren rechtzeitig entrichtet hat, erstreckt sich dieser internationale Recherchenbericht nur auf die Ansprüche, für die Gebühren entrichtet worden sind, nämlich auf die Ansprüche Nr. \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. ☐ Der Anmelder hat die erforderlichen zusätzlichen Recherchegebühren nicht rechtzeitig entrichtet. Der internationale Recherchenbericht beschränkt sich daher auf die in den Ansprüchen zuerst erwähnte Erfindung; diese ist in folgenden Ansprüchen erfaßt: \_\_\_\_\_

Bemerkungen hinsichtlich eines Widerspruchs

- ☐ Die zusätzlichen Gebühren wurden vom Anmelder unter Widerspruch gezahlt.
- ☒ Die Zahlung zusätzlicher Recherchegebühren erfolgte ohne Widerspruch.



## WEITERE ANGABEN

PCT/ISA/ 210

Die internationale Recherchenbehörde hat festgestellt, dass diese internationale Anmeldung mehrere (Gruppen von) Erfindungen enthält, nämlich:

1. Ansprüche: 1-27

Vorrichtung zum dynamischen Speichern von Gegenständen entlang einer Förderstrecke mit einem endlosen, flexiblen Fördermittel, wobei das endlose Fördermittel über seine gesamte Länge mit Greifern versehen ist.

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2. Ansprüche: 28-48

Vorrichtung zum dynamischen Speichern von Gegenständen entlang einer Förderstrecke mit einer mit drehbaren Führungsrollen bestückte Gliederkette.

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# INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH REPORT

Angaben zu Veröffentlichungen, die zur selben Patentfamilie gehören

Internationales Aktenzeichen

PCT/EP2005/000942

Im Recherchenbericht angeführtes Patentdokument		Datum der Veröffentlichung	Mitglied(er) der Patentfamilie	Datum der Veröffentlichung
EP 1275603	A	15-01-2003	AT 261895 T DE 50200295 D1 EP 1275603 A1 ES 2217244 T3 US 2002195317 A1	15-04-2004 22-04-2004 15-01-2003 01-11-2004 26-12-2002
EP 1295820	A	26-03-2003	EP 1295820 A1	26-03-2003
EP 0734978	A	02-10-1996	US 5620084 A AU 692268 B2 AU 2721795 A BR 9503986 A CA 2158301 A1 CN 1132170 A ,C CZ 9600891 A3 DE 69515983 D1 DE 69515983 T2 EP 0734978 A2 ES 2145198 T3 FI 955897 A HK 1013978 A1 HU 73447 A2 JP 8301423 A KR 264903 B1 NO 961296 A NZ 286098 A PL 310275 A1 RU 2160694 C2 SG 41957 A1 ZA 9506206 A	15-04-1997 04-06-1998 10-10-1996 14-10-1997 01-10-1996 02-10-1996 16-10-1996 04-05-2000 27-07-2000 02-10-1996 01-07-2000 01-10-1996 08-12-2000 28-08-1996 19-11-1996 01-11-2000 01-10-1996 25-03-1998 14-10-1996 20-12-2000 15-08-1997 27-01-1997
US 4549647	A	29-10-1985	FR 2524436 A1 CA 1212131 A1 DE 3376643 D1 DE 91856 T1 EP 0091856 A1 ES 8604826 A1 GB 2118125 A ,B	07-10-1983 30-09-1986 23-06-1988 07-06-1984 19-10-1983 01-08-1986 26-10-1983
US 2003155212	A1	21-08-2003	FR 2807413 A1 AU 4848301 A EP 1274635 A1 WO 0176989 A1	12-10-2001 23-10-2001 15-01-2003 18-10-2001
FR 2766803	A	05-02-1999	FR 2766803 A1	05-02-1999
US 2002195317	A1	26-12-2002	AT 261895 T DE 50200295 D1 EP 1275603 A1 ES 2217244 T3	15-04-2004 22-04-2004 15-01-2003 01-11-2004
US 5429227	A	04-07-1995	DE 4324120 A1 DE 59404196 D1 EP 0635441 A1 ES 2108344 T3	26-01-1995 06-11-1997 25-01-1995 16-12-1997

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

**TRANSLATION**  
**PCT**

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

To:

Date of mailing (day/month/year) **See form PCT/ISA/210**

Applicant's or agent's file reference

**pathape1032W**

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

**PCT/EP2005/000942**

International filing date (day/month/year)

**01.02.2005**

Priority date (day/month/year)

**02.02.2004**

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

**B65G47/51**

Applicant

**KRONES AG**

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- |                                     |              |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. I    | Basis of the opinion   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. II   | Priority   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. III  | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. IV   | Lack of unity of invention   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Box No. V    | Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VI   | Certain documents cited  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VII  | Certain defects in the international application   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Box No. VIII | Certain observations on the international application  |

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

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Box No. I

Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.  
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language  
\_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
  - a. type of material  
☐ a sequence listing  
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
  - b. format of material  
☐ in written format  
☐ in computer readable form
  - c. time of filing/furnishing  
☐ contained in the international application as filed.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

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Box No. IV

Lack of unity of invention

1. ☒ In response to the invitation (Form PCT/ISA/206) to pay additional fees the applicant has:
- ☒ paid additional fees
- ☐ paid additional fees under protest
- ☐ not paid additional fees
2. ☐ This Authority found that the requirement of unity of invention is not complied with and chose not to invite the applicant to pay additional fees.
3. This Authority considers that the requirement of unity of invention in accordance with Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3 is
- ☐ complied with
- ☒ not complied with for the following reasons:

See supplemental sheet

4. Consequently, this opinion has been established in respect of the following parts of the international application:

☒ all parts

☐ the parts relating to claims Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.  
PCT/EP2005/000942

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
<b>1. Statement</b>			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-40, 42-48	YES
	Claims	41	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	2, 3, 5, 7-27, 29-40, 42-48	YES
	Claims	1, 4, 6, 28, 41	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-48	YES
	Claims		NO
<b>2. Citations and explanations:</b>			
<p>As the search fees have been paid for both inventions, this opinion covers both inventions, or all the claims.</p> <p>Invention 1 (claims 1-27)</p> <p>1      Claim 1</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Document D1 is considered to be the closest prior art and discloses a device for dynamically storing objects (see IV, paragraph 4).</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">However, document D1 does not disclose a conveying means which is provided with grippers over its entire length.</p> <p>2      The problem addressed by claim 1 can therefore be considered that of providing an alternative device for dynamically storing and gripping objects.</p> <p>3      The solution proposed in claim 1 of the present application cannot be regarded as inventive for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)):</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the solution features have already been used for the same purpose in a similar device, cf. in this regard document D2, in particular column 3,</p>			

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
	<p>paragraph 14. If a person skilled in the art wished to achieve the same aim in a device as per document D1, he could easily apply these features to like effect to the subject matter of D1. In this way he would arrive at a device as per claim 1 without thereby being inventive.</p>
4	<p>The additional features of dependent claims 4 and 6 are also known from a combination of document D1 with document D2.</p>
5	<p>Claims 1-27 relate to industrially applicable subject matter (PCT Article 33(4)).</p>
	<p>Invention 2 (claims 28-48)</p>
1	<p>Claim 28</p> <p>Document D1 is considered to be the closest prior art and discloses a device for dynamically storing objects (see IV, paragraph 4).</p> <p>However, document D1 does not disclose that the conveying means has a link chain which is equipped with rotatable guide rollers and at least in regions runs in at least one stationary guide rail, at least one guide roller being arranged movably on the respective chain link.</p>
2	<p>The problem addressed by claim 28 can therefore be considered that of providing a device for dynamically storing and gripping objects with an alternative link chain.</p>

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.  
PCT/EP2005/000942

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
3	<p>The solution proposed in claim 28 of the present application cannot be regarded as inventive for the following reasons (PCT Article 33(3)):</p> <p>the solution features have already been used for the same purpose in a similar device, cf. in this regard document D3, in particular column 3, lines 8-41; abstract; figures 1 and 3.</p> <p>If a person skilled in the art wished to achieve the same aim in a device as per document D1, he could easily apply these features to like effect to the subject matter of D1. In this way he would arrive at a device as per claim 28 without thereby being inventive.</p>
4	<p>Claim 41</p> <p>Document D3 discloses a link chain (chain assembly (14)) equipped with rotatable guide rollers (center rollers (24)), at least one guide roller being arranged movably (see: column 3, lines 38-41) on the respective chain link. All the features of claim 41 are therefore known from D3.</p>
5	<p>Claims 28-48 relate to industrially applicable subject matter (PCT Article 33(4)).</p>



Supplemental Box

In case the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient.

Continuation of:

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1 = EP-A-1275603

D2 = EP-A-1295820

D3 = EP-A-0734978

Box IV

1 This Authority has determined that the international application contains multiple inventions or groups of inventions which are not linked by a single general inventive concept (PCT Rule 13.1), as follows:

I. Device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor section with a continuous, flexible conveying means, the continuous conveying means being provided with grippers over its entire length.

II. Device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor section with a link chain equipped with rotatable guide rollers.

2 These inventions are not so linked with one another as to form a single general inventive concept, for the following reasons:

3 The application is devoted to the general object of providing a device for storing objects with a

Supplemental Box

link chain.

- 4 Document D1 discloses a device for dynamically storing objects (goods (G)) along a conveyor section between an input station (input station) and an output station (output station) with a continuous, flexible conveying means (conveying means (1)) which is divided in a variable manner into a conveying strand (storage strand (10, 10')) and an empty strand (empty strand (11, 11', 12, 12')), the conveying strand and the empty strand in each case having regions of variable length which are movable in opposite directions (see figures), with at least one slide (slide (2)) for changing the storage capacity which can be displaced in the conveying plane and has a first diversion for the conveying strand (diverting roller (12)) and a second diversion for the empty strand (diverting roller (21')), and also with a first drive arrangement for the conveying means in the region of the input station and a second drive arrangement for the conveying means in the region of the output station, the first and the second drive arrangements being drivable independently of one another with variable conveying speed (see: column 3, paragraphs 15-17).

- 5 The contributions of the different inventions to the prior art according to document D1 can be assessed as follows:

Claims 1-27

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The continuous conveying means is provided with grippers over its entire length; the corresponding object is, for example, to provide an alternative device for dynamically storing objects along a conveyor section between an input station and an output station.

Claims 28-48

The link chain is equipped with rotatable guide rollers; the corresponding object is, for example, to provide an alternative link chain.

- 6 No non-trivial features which are the same or features with the same or corresponding non-trivial effect can be seen from either the claims or the description.
- 7 The application thus fails to meet the requirement of unity of invention (PCT Rule 13.1), since there is no technical relationship among the subjects of said groups of claims involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features (PCT Rule 13.2).